

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

--A video data compression apparatus with which compressed video data of suitable amounts of data can be produced and in addition the time required for processing is short.

An encoder control unit performs a preprocessing for compression and coding and, at the same time, produces a flatness and an intra AC as parameters indicating the difficulty of the pattern of pictures to be compressed to I pictures. A motion detector calculates a predictive error amount (ME residual) of the motion prediction. An FIFO memory delays each picture of the input video data. A host computer approximates a real difficulty data D_j indicating the difficulty of the pattern of each picture by the ME residual, flatness, and intra AC and further calculates the target amount of data T_j of the compressed video data from the approximated real difficulty data D_j . The encoder performs the compression and coding so that the amount of data of the compressed video data becomes substantially the target amount of data T_j .--